

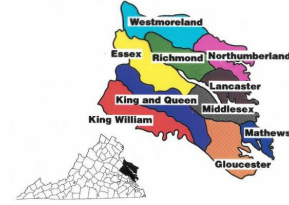


Greetings from the Virginia Primary Care Office & the State Office of Rural Health!

COVID-19 Response Spotlight:

Three Rivers Health District

The Three Rivers Health District, hospital systems, physician practices, pharmacies, free clinics, along with local EMS are engaged collaboratively in the vaccination effort. They currently have over 30 partners capable of administering vaccines.



Three Rivers Health District publishes a weekly comprehensive pandemic update on their website, multiple social media sites, local government sites, and in print media in order to reach members of the community. However, they have found community briefings via virtual platforms to be the most successful form of outreach. Community briefings to local government, school board, community of faith, and civic organizations are held regularly.

Dr. Richard Williams, District Director of Three Rivers Health District, shared with us how they have approached "the most complex and difficult public health effort undertaken in over a century."

"The Three Rivers Health District divides its vaccination effort into 2 teams, necessitated by the 2 vaccination requirements with the Moderna and Pfizer products. We have mobile teams of Public Health Nurses who travel to essential frontline workers, such as schools, court systems, and local government entities; they are delivering the first doses and concentrating on second doses at the appropriate intervals. We can and will adapt in the future as necessary; if we receive a single dose vaccine such as the Johnson and Johnson product, we can pivot to high throughput drive through single dose events for maximum efficiency and community immunization effect. Most of the vaccinating capability in our district is resident in our clinical and pharmacy partners. Currently, our eligible health care systems, free clinics, private practices and independent pharmacies are vaccinating with the limited supply of doses we can get to them. As doses increase, we will bring more of our partners on line, and we will stand up more sites with greater vaccinating capability, staffed collaboratively with our partners. We are also looking for opportunities to leverage commercial vaccinating vendors to staff some of these sites as they are available to do so. Once we get enough vaccine to fully engage our district's vaccinating power, and we set up additional vaccination sites with high throughput capability, we will be able to move much more rapidly through this campaign."

Updated COVID-19 Resources

Virginia Department of Health (VDH) COVID-19 Vaccination Resources



- [Vaccinate Virginia- VDH Vaccine Registration](#)
- [Become a 2021 VDH Community Ambassador](#)
- [VDH COVID-19 Vaccine Patient Education Materials](#)
- [VDH COVID-19 Vaccination Response](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Phase by Health District](#)
- [Find out which phase of the vaccination campaign you fall in](#)
- [Contact your Local Health District](#)

COVID-19 Communications Materials

- [The Language of Vaccine Acceptance](#) by de Beaumont
- Public Health Communications Collaborative (PHCC)- [Misinformation Alerts](#)
- Public Health Communications Collaborative (PHCC)- [Communications Resources](#)
- [CDC Vaccination Communication Toolkit](#)
- Downloadable [VDH COVID-19 Vaccine Patient Education Materials](#)

Additional COVID-19 Resources

- [CDC National Forum on COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
- [NIH Assessment of COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccination Reporting Data Systems](#)
- [CDC Vaccine Tracking System \(VTrckS\)](#)
- [COVID-19 FAQs and Funding for HRSA Programs](#)
- [COVID-19 Claims Reimbursement to Health Care Providers and Facilities for Testing, Treatment, and Vaccine Administration for the Uninsured](#)

Information & Resources for Providers & Healthcare Facilities



Save the Date! The National Rural EMS & Care Conference is next month!

April 20 - 22, 2021 from 1:00 - 4:30 PM ET

The National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health, The National Association of State EMS Officials, and The Joint Committee on Rural Emergency Care invite you to attend the 6th Annual National Rural EMS & Care Conference.

[For More Information](#)

Rural Early Childhood Health Promotion Toolkit

Created in partnership with the University of Minnesota Rural Health Research Center and the NORC Walsh Center for Rural Health Analysis, this new toolkit provides information critical to promoting health in early childhood and compiles evidence-based and promising models and resources to support the implementation of early childhood health promotion programs in rural communities.



[To Access the Toolkit](#)

Virtual Communication Services in RHCs and FQHCs Frequently Asked Questions

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has sponsored the following document that provides information for Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) regarding billing and payment for virtual communication services as established in the 2019 Physician Fee Schedule Final Rule.



Check out the Healthy Places, Healthy Lives data dashboard

For many Americans the neighborhood in which they live has a significant impact on their opportunity for optimal health. However, most measures of community characteristics and health outcomes are made at the county or metro level. These often hide vulnerable populations, diluting their impact in mapping and analysis.

Healthy Places, Healthy Lives bridges this gap by combining robust, Census Tract-level, measures into a single visualization. For health outcomes, the visualization uses life expectancy estimates created by the United States Small-Area Life Expectancy Estimates Project (USALEEP). For neighborhood characteristics the visualization incorporates the Health Opportunity Index (HOI), a Census Tract-level index comprising 13 Social Determinant of Health (SDOH) indicators, created by the Virginia Department of Health, Office of Health Equity.

[Explore the Data](#)

Comments Requested: HHS Center for Indigenous Innovation and Health Equity

Deadline: March 14, 2021

The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) seeks input from Federally-recognized Indian Tribes/American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Tribes, Tribal organizations, Tribal-serving organizations, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and AI/AN—serving institutions of higher education to guide the development of a new Center for Indigenous Innovation and Health Equity.

[For More Information](#)

Learn how to access your Auto-HPSA 2021 National Shortage Designation 2.0 Update Preview via the Auto-HPSA Portal



This training will provide participants information on:

- How to access and view Update Preview results within the Auto-HSPA Portal,
- How to submit a system data rescore request, and
- The system data rescore review processes and timelines.

Attend a webinar training on March 4 or March 9, 2021 from 2:00 - 3:00 PM ET.

[Register for the March 4th Training](#)[Register for the March 9th Training](#)

Lee County, Virginia Community Hospital set to open this summer

"Wednesday afternoon, Ballad Health officials provided an inside look at the future Lee County Community Hospital, set to open this summer.

In January 2019, Ballad Health officials revealed plans to reopen the facility that has been closed since 2013. President of Ballad Health's Northwest Market, Lindy White, told CBS affiliate WJHL the upgraded facility in Lee County will offer telehealth options in-house and help connect patients with specialists in other regions.

To Read the Full Article

State & Regional Resources & Funding Opportunities

The Virginia State Loan Repayment Program (VA-SLRP) application cycle is now open!



Application Deadline: March 31, 2021

VA-SLRP is operated by the Virginia Department of Health-Office of Health Equity (VDH-OHE) providing a non-taxed incentive to qualified medical, dental, behavioral health and pharmaceutical (pharmacists) professionals in return for a minimum of two (2) years of service at an eligible practice site in one of the federally designated Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) in a qualified field of practice in Virginia. There is a total of \$2,465,000 in available funding.

For more specific details, please call (804) 864-7431 or email olivette.burroughs@vdh.virginia.gov.

Updated Program Flyer

For More Information and to Apply



Promoting Pediatric Primary Prevention (P4) Challenge: Innovations in Pediatric Primary Care to Improve Child Health

Application Deadline: March 15, 2021 by 5 PM ET

The P4 Challenge invites applicants to propose and implement innovative approaches to increase access to and utilization of well-child visits and/or immunizations services within primary care settings.

Innovative approaches in Phase 1 should aim to increase a key pediatric health performance measure such as:

- Number of well-child visits
- Well-child visit disparities
- Doses administered of specific vaccines; coverage of the primary pediatric vaccination series
- Disparities within the community on a specific immunization metric

In Phase 1 of the P4 Challenge, up to 50 applicants will receive \$10,000 to deploy the proposed approach in Phase 2.

For More Information and to Apply

USDA Seeks Applications for Grants to Support Rural Community Development Projects



USDA continues to seek grant applications for projects to improve housing, community facilities,

and community and economic development in rural areas.

Subject to the availability of funds, grants will be established through USDA's [Rural Community Development Initiative \(RCDI\)](#) program. Eligible recipients include public bodies, nonprofit organizations, and qualified private (for-profit) organizations.

Grants will be awarded to organizations that will use the USDA funding to provide support to entities to develop their capacity to undertake projects that will benefit rural communities. Applicants must provide matching funds in an amount at least equal to the federal grant.

[For More Information](#)



2021 POWER (Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization) Initiative

Deadline to Submit Letter of Intent: March 5, 2021
Final Application Deadline: April 16, 2021

Seeking proposals that will diversify economies in communities and regions affected by job losses in coal mining, coal power plant operations, and coal-related supply chain industries due to the changing economics of America's energy production.

[For More Information](#)

Rural Communities Opioid Response Program – Implementation

Application Deadline: March 12, 2021

The Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP) is a multi-year initiative by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) aimed at reducing the morbidity and mortality of substance use disorder (SUD), including opioid use disorder (OUD), in high risk rural communities. This notice announces the opportunity to apply for funding under RCORP-Implementation.

[For More Information and to Apply](#)



Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI)

Application Deadline: March 22, 2021

Funding to help nonprofit housing and community development intermediary organizations support housing, community facilities, and community and economic development projects in rural areas. Priority will be given to applications that address USDA's goal to reduce the morbidity and mortality associated with Substance Use Disorder (including opioid misuse) in high-risk rural communities.

[For More Information and to Apply](#)

USAC Rural Healthcare Connect Fund

Deadline: April 1, 2021

The Healthcare Connect Fund (HCF) Program provides a 65% discount on eligible broadband connectivity expenses for eligible rural health care providers (HCPs). You can apply as an individual health care provider or as a consortium, i.e., a group of HCPs that can be both rural and non-rural.

The non-profit Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) administers this program for the Federal Communications Commission to provide a discount for telecommunications or broadband services used by eligible public or private health care providers.

[For More Information](#)

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is accepting applications for fiscal year (FY) 2021 for the Dental Faculty Loan Repayment Program.



Application Deadline: April 19, 2021

This program will increase the number of dental and dental hygiene faculty in the workforce. Grantees will create and manage a loan repayment program for individuals who serve as full-time dental faculty.

[For More Information](#)

Tribal Grant Writing Training

The Association of American Indian Physicians provides online training modules designed specifically for tribes and tribal organizations.

[For More Information](#)

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[Visit the VA-SORH Facebook Page](#)

